(18)

Dec. 1916-Jan. 1917

Galbraith, R Douglas

Ere memorial to University men killed in war

Canadian Machine Gun Depot
Crowborough Camp
Sussex. Dec. 28th/16

Dear President Falconer.-

Although a little previous to the conclusion of this war, I would like to place before you a suggestion regarding those Graduate and undergraduate of the University who have been killed in action.

As this is to a great extent a young man's war and the majority of the University men who have given up their lives were undergraduate or had only graduated a few years previously, their closest associations were bound up in the University and there is no doubt that it rests with the Graduates both

from duty and personal wish to do all in their power to preserve the memory of those men for into the future.

This war is of such a magnitude that it is only possible for the different Governments, Dominion and provincial, to erect memorials to the Canadian dead in a body and it is left for the different institutions with which a man was associated before the war to bring the personal touch into the memorial, such as a list of names.

In other wars in which Canadians have taken part, there were so few deaths compared with the casualties in the present struggle that the Governments were able to

erect monuments and in many cases attatch the list of those to whom it was dedicated, as many such in Toronto and other cities indicate.

No doubt Toronto University will take steps to erect a befitting monument to the memory of her killed. Combined with this, I would like to suggest that a book somewhat similar to the Torontonensis be published with a photograph and short biography of each one killed in action in it.

From a business standpoint it could be done with little or no financial loss, as every bereaved family would certainly like to have one and many others.

The photograph would help a great deal in bringing out, far more than a name, the individual feeling, which is gradually becoming less and less owing to the ever increasing casualty list. Anyone to-day in going over mentally the list of his personal friends killed in action, is as likely as not to leave out a few of the number.

I hope you will pardon this personal letter and also the suggestion. It is probably one of many and far better ideas brought forward but it rests with those who come through to see that the others who have given everything they had, are not forgotten. I am

Yours very sincerely

R. Douglas Galbraith

January 15th, 1917

Lieutenant R. D. Galtraith,

Canadian Machine Gun Depot,

Crowtorough Camp, Sussex.

Dear Mr. Galtraith:

I am very glad to hear from you. You were back in England before I knew that you had gone, and I hope that you have had good word from your mother lately. I know that your visit cheered her up wonderfully.

With regard to the two matters of your letter I may say that I agree with you entirely. We are looking forward to having some worthy memorial of all graduates and undergraduates who have fallen placed in the University at the end of the war. Just what form this will take has not yet been decided, but we have talked a great deal about it, and Dr. Abbott, who has been made Secretary of the Alumni Association, will undoubtedly give a great deal of his time to carrying this through when his present duties with the war are over and we have the time and money to turn to other things than the immediate winning of the war.

With regard to your proposal of a book, we have already taken steps in this matter and have appointed an editor, who is to bring out an authoritative list of all those who have gone and have fallen. I spoke to him recently about securing photographs of those who have fallen, and probably he will carry out the very suggestion that you make.

You may have seen the War Supplement of "Varsity", which is very good as far as it goes, but there are gaps. Be assured that we are keeping in mind our men who have gone, and that the University will leave nothing undone to mark their names indelibly in our history.

I hope that you yourself are keeping well and that before the end of the present year you will all be back home safely.

Yours sincerely,

President.